

Roanoke, Va.

The messenger with good tidings is welcome everywhere, so you are doubly welcome just now with your pages so full of all that cheers the hearts of the Father's children. News of progress in all the fields and a heaven ordained baptism of Christian stewardship concerning the work in Washington cheers us. Brother Ridenour's \$1.00 proposition is bearing glorious fruit. Of course we do not expect every member to respond, but it will bring in its hundreds that possibly would not come otherwise. What we want is suggestions and his is a good one.

I feel greatly encouraged because of the whole-heartedness of the brethren toward the Washington work.

Let this blessed spirit of sacrifice for the Lord's work get complete control of our hearts and our success is aroused.

We have one favor to ask of the cold water pourers. Please don't rake out of the ashes of a dead past the smouldering embers of the mistakes and misfortunes of the church. The case of Ashland College bears no relation to the case in hand. That institution was involved in a grievous debt, was the subject of litigation, and came to us when numerically and financially we were weak and disorganized.

Such a course can have no mission but discouragement and failure.

Let there be no looking or going back. Let the dead bury the dead. Look to the brightness of the morning that dawns not to the darkness of the night that is past. Another favor, please don't embarrass Brother Cassel by asking him to guarantee you against the loss of your money. If you have no faith in the Lord or his people, well, I will not say what you would best do.

We invest in cattle and lands and merchandise and endorse people's notes without demanding security against loss, why then do we demand the Lord or his agents to give security for investments for the good cause.

Brethren, let us double our diligence and if need be double our subscriptions and add to our faith a hundred fold and such a tidal wave of the divine favor will come to all of our churches such as we have never experienced.

The purchase of the house in Washington by the brotherhood will bring more of the heavenly grace to the brotherhood than anything else we could do now. It would show, as nothing else will, that we have the spirit of self sacrifice, that we are united, that we are loyal to the Lord, and that we are a fixture among the agencies that are doing the Lord's work in the world.

May we all have a double portion of the spirit that has animated Brother Lyon in his heroic work in establishing such a grand movement of grace in Washington City. With God's help we press toward the mark for the priceless prize. D. C. MOOMAW.

Falls City, Neb.

I quote from my last letter: "We are in the midst of a revival effort at Silver Creek

without as yet any visible results." But I am glad to say that victory came at last. We began about the middle of January; part of the time we had very bad roads and part of the time severe cold weather, but our people came out splendidly and we had good meetings, although we did not get the response we hoped for from the people of other churches and those of "no church at all" in the neighborhood. Nevertheless, the Lord worked with us and our people were helped spiritually. Toward the close of the second week the Lord gave us five precious souls, who were recently baptized, and two more have promised me they will come soon. I feel reasonably sure of them for the only hindrance is a question of the mode of baptism. I preached during the series eleven sermons in all. If these two come it will make eleven accessions (one by letter) since the beginning of my pastorate. By the time this is published I will have preached my first anniversary sermon here. While I was engaged in the meetings at Silver Creek, there was being held in our town church a Sunday-school Institute, under the very able direction of the secretary of the State Sunday-school Association. This meeting was very helpful to our schools. There were some able papers read by members of other schools, and one (the best) by our own superintendent, Brother E. R. Mathers, the copy of which I mail you herewith for publication.

Our K. C. work is doing splendidly; the young people are taking hold willingly and the attendance is increasing. Our adult membership in town do not think they have outgrown Sunday-school, and the result is a large and interesting Bible class, taught by Brother Samuel Lichty. Our work all around is moving along nicely. We are still having very good congregations, altho the Baptist church on the next corner has been holding revival meetings for four weeks past. We, too, hope to begin a revival in the town church in about a week.

We are paying off, by March 1, the debt of \$500 remaining on our church in town, it will be done, too, as our people know how to give when the cause is a good one.

By the way, Brother J. C. Cassel has written us that we are the banner church for the late collection for the National Mission Board, having raised over \$50. May the Lord bless the work every where. Pray for us.

J. ELWOOD BRAKER.

Dunlaps, Ind.

As my pen has been silent for some time, and storms raging so that we could not attend services, I thought I would aid in this part of God's work. While I have not been permitted to attend services at our own church as much as I should like, under present circumstances, yet I have not been idle in God's vineyard. I have enjoyed many good sermons in sister churches. Oh, I often think that if some people had the keys to the heavenly gates how few would be permitted to enter. But, knowing that God

holds the keys and judges all men, and knows the secret of every heart, whether it be good or evil, those who are worthy will pass through the pearly gates, and those who are not worthy—"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."

Though not attending services as much as I should like, I try not to neglect my secret prayers and daily work, which is so sweet to every Christian. Oh, the joy in holding communion with our Saviour. Let us cling to that Holy Book, the Bible. To me it contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, doom of sinners, and happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. We should read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct us, food to support us and comfort to cheer us. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule our hearts, and guide our feet. We should read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given us in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents. Oh, the awful condemnation that will rest upon those that think they know more than the Bible.

SISTER HIMEBAUGH.

Homerville, Ohio

After reading Brother P. J. Brown's "A Reminiscence" in BRETHREN EVANGELIST, No. 8, I feel like saying, "Amen," especially when he says, "Now brethren, all over the land, come to the rescue." My wife and I had proposed to send one dollar each, but yesterday, while discussing this question with an old sister and brother, we all agreed that it would be better and more economical to send all the money at one time, and that the church ought to be invited to contribute to this cause; and we further agreed to spring this question at our prayer-meeting next Thursday evening and learn what the outlook on this scheme is. I know from experience that a few dollars given in a good cause will not be felt by the "voluntary giver" one year in the future.

Not long since I read in the BRETHREN EVANGELIST that sometimes pastors of churches will not urge their members to contribute to such causes as the one on hand for fear that they, the pastors, would not fare so well financially. Now, I do not think that our pastor is of that kind; he urged the payment of our apportionment on the college. One time, not a thousand years ago, a certain member of the Brethren Church said to me: "Preachers show plainly that they think more of their members who pay